

PETER STONE BROWN

September 1, 2023

Dear Manor,

As you can see, I sent you a bunch of videos. I did a lot of searching to make sure the dates were correct. I went to the TV Talkin' website, so some of this is based on that and there still may be some discrepancies.

Now when you watch the 2020 thing, at first you're gonna hear sound and no picture and this will happen a couple of times. Apparently the videotapes they use to record these things are very short and they keep changing them.

Now onto my little surprise which I hope you don't end up holding against me.

The first tape was done at this bar here (that no longer exists by that name) J.C. Dobbs which for a long time was *the* rock and roll bar in Philly. It started out for local bands (Thorogood played there) but they ended up bringing in a lot of national acts. Steve Earle, Dwight Yokam, Nirvana, Lucinda Williams and several others all had their Philly debuts there. It was a small bar, but they had a video screen, and I discovered you could get a better recording of the show by having the sound guy stick a video in than having stick a cassette in. So it is two hours of various bands with all one shot—the camera never moves and the lighting varies. Sometimes it's black and white, sometimes color.

The first band is my band, The Others (the original band), which was my first real long-term band. There's some funny stuff in there and some pretty crazy versions of various Bob tunes including one acoustic one pretty early.

This was done in '85 and '86 I think. Then it goes to the Others version four I think. There were several versions of The Others (the original band broke up and I kept the name for better or worse). The 2nd Others is around '88 and '89. Some of the stuff is from when we opened for Lucinda.

Then it goes onto my next band the Fulminators around '90. It briefly goes back to the Others because I realized I forgot to include a tune (for better or worse). Then there's the 2nd version of the Fulminators and this part has some songs I forgot about and a fairly rocked up "Before I Go" that I don't even remember doing like that. Finally the tape goes back a few years with some songs from my goofy country spin-off band, The Crackers. We used to rehearse (not too much) in my living room, and we always thought the rehearsals were better than the shows. In fact, we used to joke about videotaping the rehearsal and just sending over a video instead of actually showing up. Most of the Cracker shows were like a revue with various people coming up to sing stuff. I've only included stuff I sing.

The 2nd tape which in my opinion is much better features my band The Fumblers which was my last band and in many ways my favorite. Compared to the other bands, the sound is stripped down. I was pretty much the lead guitarist though my friend Danny also played lead. I always looked upon us as kind of a Keith and Ronnie thing 'cause neither of us was great guitar players, but we could play together and there was never any of that ego bullshit.

The first part of the tape was from this preposterous show we put on on Labor Day Weekend, 1993, "The Rolling Fumbler Revue." We rehearsed in my basement, and we sort of only mildly cared whether we played out or not. We were all friends for a fairly long time and had been through the music scene here, so we were pretty much doing it for ourselves. It was like our little Tuesday night club. We'd also meet at my house before every gig,

and our pre-gig ritual was to watch the *Hard Rain* version of “Maggie’s Farm.” We never did a gig without watching “Maggie’s Farm” first. So we jokingly would kick around the idea of doing some sort of *Hard Rain* tribute. Well, one day I answer the door and it’s Danny coming over for rehearsal and he says, “It’s the Rolling Fumbler Revue.” Lunatic that I am, that was all I needed and I contacted a bunch of other musicians and asked them if they wanted to do it. We really had no intention of doing the complete show, we sort of wanted to capture the spirit. So we rehearsed in my basement for a week, almost every night I think. I would tell people, you come at 8, you come at 8:30 and so on. It was nuts! It’s not like we were Booker T or anything, though we got my old guitarist Bob Jay to sit in and make things a little more professional and had another drummer sit in so Mike our drummer (who is really a bass player) could play other instruments like lap steel and mandolin. We had originally intended to get real dressed up Rolling Thunder style for the show, but we were so exhausted after the rehearsals and just coordinating the thing took forever. This bar had a dressing room on the 3rd floor and the club of course was on the first floor. We didn’t have a stage manager, so I made millions of schedules and tons of signs and put them everywhere in the dressing room telling everyone to check the schedule and know who was on stage. It worked.

We hired someone to videotape it. It was a few hours long. There were other hassles involved which I won’t go into here. When I dubbed the tape tonight, there was a lot of talking so I really didn’t include too much from this show and actually a lot of performances looking at them now just weren’t that good.

So 20 minutes into the tape you’ll come to the Fumblers reunion concert. We’d broken up I guess the year before and in the ensuing time my album came out and stuff. I think you’ll notice an immediate difference in my

performance though we kept this show pretty loose. It wouldn't have been the Fumblers otherwise. I left out Danny's songs 'cause I know he doesn't like this stuff to get out. Even though the band broke up we remained friends (through ups and downs), but we did this show because our bass player was leaving the area and moving back to his home state of Michigan. So we did it one last time. A friend who showed up had just gotten a video camera for his birthday and he came and taped it. Actually a few people taped including my roommate at the time, they kind of passed the camera around. However my roommate didn't realize a video camera isn't like a real camera so at one point on "Insignificant" he turns the camera on its side, so it is not your TV. I hope the spirit of what we did comes through and I think it's the best of the video tapes. There is also a version of a Bob tune fairly early in the show I think you'll like.

Finally just for the hell of it, I through on a clip of me sitting in with this blues band I told you about the Dukes of Destiny. The video shot by one of their guitarists (I'm playing his guitar) says its in March of '92 or something but I believe it was really in July or August. They were playing outside down by the river and I stopped by, so they brought me up. It was totally unrehearsed.

Following that theirs is a split-second special bonus from last December.

I have mixed feelings about a lot of the stuff on there and of course most of it is pretty old at this point. A lot of things I included because I thought they were pretty funny. In any case, I hope you enjoy it, but don't try and watch it all at once - you'll go nuts.

Someday and hopefully someday soon, you'll get to see me really play and I hope that someday we get a chance to play together somewhere.

